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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP2004/009415

Applicant: Seeboth et al.

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Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.